

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 AF-08

ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

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R 101530Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

SECSTATE WASHDC 704

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0225

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: HOCKEY INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUING LANGUAGE
CONTROVERSY.

REF: MONTREAL 1309

1. CANADIAN LANGUAGE SENSITIVITIES WERE BACK ON QUEBEC S
CENTER-STAGE THIS WEEK FOLLOWING A FAVORABLE COURT DECISION
IN THE AIR COMMUNICATIONS DISPUTE (REFTTEL) AND A BOOING INCIDENT
IN TORONTO. AS REPORTED IN LAVISH COVERAGE IN PROVINCIAL PRESS,
CROWD AT SEPT. 7 CANADA CUP HOCKEY GAME IN TORONTO JEERED PUBLIC
ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS IN FRENCH. LE SOLEIL HEADLINED SEPT. 8
SPORTS PAGE "TORONTO PREFERS SALMING (SWEDISH TEAM PLAYER WHO
PLAYS PROFESSIONALLY FOR MAPLE LEAFS) TO FRENCH." PAPER REPORTED
THAT FRENCH-CANADIAN PLAYERS WERE INSULTED THROUGHOUT GAME.
WHILE MANY TORONTO JOURNALISTS HAVE WRITTEN THAT BOOS CAME FROM
SMALL MINORITY, LE SOLEIL OF SEPT. 9 INSISTS THAT 7,000 OR
8,000 WERE INVOLVED.

2. WHATEVER ACTUALLY HAPPENED, ISSUE READY MADE FOR PARTI
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QUEBECOIS POLITICIANS. RENE LEVESQUE SAID THAT BOOING INCIDENT

ONLY WIDENS GAP BETWEEN FRENCH AND ENGLISH-CANADIANS. THE TWO LANGUAGE GROUPS NOW FORM "NOT TWO SOLITUDES BUT TWO HOSTILITIES THAT ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY HOSTILE TOWARD EACH OTHER." THE PQ LEADER ADDED THAT ONLY DURING CRISES SUCH AS CONSCRIPTION DEBATE HAVE RELATIONS BEEN WORSE. WHILE GOQ HAS HAD NO COMMENT, MANY QUEBECOIS ARE SAYING THAT QUEBEC LAWYER GUY BERTRAND'S PROPOSAL OF LAST SPRING TO FORM A TEAM QUEBEC WITH FRENCH-CANADIANS PLAYERS WAS NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL.

3. IN SEPT. 8 ACTION IN AIR CONTROL LANGUAGE CONTROVERSY, BOURASSA CABINET APPROVED A 25,000 DOLLARS GRANT TO LSASSOCIATION DES GENS DE LS-84 TO AID THE FRANCOPHONE PILOTS AND CONTROLLERS IN THEIR BATTLE FOR BILINGUAL AIR COMMUNICATIONS. MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LANGUAGE MATTERS FERNAND LALONDE QSAID ASSOCIATION CAN USE MONEY AS THEY DESIRE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. HE ENCOURAGED OTHER QUEBECOIS TO CONTRIBUTE TO QFUND DRIVE AND JOIN GROWING LIST OF QUEBECOIS SUPPORTING QASSOCIATION (REFTEL). LALONDE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE GRANTS IF ASSOCIATION GETS INVOLVED IN PROTRACTED LEGAL BATTLES.

4. COMMENT: EVENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE REACHED DURING LATE JUNE AIR CONTROL CONTROVERSY HAS NOT ABATED. 01 LEADER RENE LEVESQUE A0PEA4S TO US TO BE PLAYING CONTINUING LANGUAGE CONTROVERSY QUITE CLEVERLY WITH PITHY, WELL-TIMED COMMENTS BUT NO SELF-DEFEATING OVERREACTION.
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